

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend Applicant's claims, without prejudice, to read as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 25-4, wherein said server is in communication with the one or more specifier workstations and the one or more supplier workstations ~~communicates with said plurality of client workstations across a computer network.~~
4. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 3, wherein said computer network is selected from a group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, an intranet, the Internet and a combination thereof.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 25-5, wherein each specifier shade is further characterized by said e-palette includes members selected from a group consisting at least one of: colorimetric data, spectral data, reflectance data, transmission data, illuminant data, an image map, and a texture map and combinations thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 25-5, wherein each of the one or more specifier workstations further includes means for specifying at least one of: said parameters related to said e-palette include information unrelated to color selected from a group consisting of a predetermined set of suppliers, (1) one or more supplier submission conditions, (2) one or more supplier response timeframes, and (3) cost data, and

combinations thereof for association with the nested e-palette or with one or more of the nestings within the nested e-palette.

8. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 25-1, further comprising one or more a color measurement devices, each color measurement device in communication with at least one of: (1) one of the one or more specifier workstations and (2) one of the one or more supplier workstations, wherein the color measurement device is adapted to provide spectral data. ~~in communication with at least one of said plurality of client workstations, said color measurement device being configured to measure at least one of said plurality of parameters related to said e-palette.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 8, further comprising wherein said at least one of said plurality of client workstations is in communication with a profiling system adapted to profile programming that profiles operative performance of said the one or more color measurement devices.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 25-1, further comprising reporting means, wherein said reporting means enables one or more specifiers to access reports associated with one or more nested e-palettes. ~~programming further operates with said processor to support reporting functionality accessible by a specifier from said specifier workstation.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 12, wherein said reporting means

~~functionality provides said~~ enables one or more ~~specifiers with an ability to access reports associated with e-palette communications selected from a group consisting at least one of: (1)~~ detailed reports, (2) summary reports, and (3) supplier reports.

14. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 25-1, wherein ~~said communication between said server and said plurality of client workstations utilizes CxF language protocols are used to facilitate communications between the server and the one or more specifier workstations and between the server and the one or more supplier workstations.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 26-15, wherein each specifier shade is further characterized by at least one of: said e-palette includes color information selected from a group consisting of calorimetric data, spectral data, reflectance data, transmission data, illuminant data, an image map, and a texture map and combinations thereof, and said parameters include information unrelated to color selected from a group consisting of supplier submission condition, supplier response timeframe, cost data, and combinations thereof.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 26-18, further comprising:

- a. storing information related to ~~said~~ iterative communications between the one of the specifier workstations and one or more supplier workstations regarding the

uploaded nested e-palette in a database associated with said server; and

- b. providing reporting functionality related to said iterative communications ~~between said specifier and said at least one of said predetermined set of suppliers.~~

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 26-15, wherein the sets of actual spectral data and the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palette are provided ~~that further comprises measuring color attributes associated with an e-palette received at said server using color measuring equipment and further comprises automatically validating operation of said color measuring equipment.~~

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A system for facilitating communications between specifiers and suppliers, the system comprising:

- a. one or more specifier workstations, each specifier workstation including:
 - i. means for predefining a plurality of specifier shades, a plurality of specifier substrates, and a plurality of suppliers, wherein each specifier shade is characterized by a set of spectral data;
 - ii. means for storing the predefined pluralities of specifier shades, specifier substrates and suppliers in a specifier database;

- iii. means for creating a nested e-palette for a set of goods, said creating means being adapted to select from the specifier database a set of one or more of the plurality of specifier substrates for association with the set of goods and to select a set of one or more of the plurality of specifier shades for association with each selected specifier substrate, wherein each selected specifier substrate and each selected specifier shade defines a nesting within the nested e-palette;
 - iv. means for selecting from the specifier database a predetermined set of one or more of the plurality of suppliers for association with one or more of the nestings within the nested e-palette; and
 - v. means for uploading the nested e-palette to a server;
- b. a server in communication with the one or more specifier workstations, the server including:
- i. means for remotely storing one or more nested e-palletes uploaded from the one or more specifier workstations;
 - ii. means for automatically communicating the existence of each uploaded nested e-palette to the predetermined set of suppliers associated with the nestings within the nested e-palette; and
 - iii. means for restricting access to at least one of: (1) each uploaded nested e-palette and (2) each of the nestings within each uploaded nested e-palette, based upon the predetermined sets of suppliers associated with the nestings within the uploaded nested e-palletes;

- c. one or more supplier workstations in communication with the server, each supplier workstation including:
 - i. means for remotely accessing one or more of the uploaded nested e-palettes;
 - ii. means for filtering the one or more uploaded nested e-palettes for at least one of: (1) one or more nested e-palettes and (2) one or more nestings within the uploaded nested e-palettes;
 - iii. means for importing submission data for one or more supplier shades associated with one or more supplier substrates, the submission data including sets of actual spectral data from one or more test samples;
 - iv. means for comparing the sets of actual spectral data to the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palettes; and
 - v. means for uploading the submission data to the server for review by one or more specifiers.

26.(New) A method for facilitating communications between specifiers and suppliers using a server-based system , the method comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a server-based system including a server, one or more specifier workstations in communication with the server, and one or more supplier workstations in communication with the server;
- b. using one of the specifier workstations to predefine a plurality of specifier shades, a plurality of specifier substrates and a plurality of suppliers, wherein each specifier shade is characterized by a set of spectral data and wherein the predefined pluralities of specifier shades, specifier substrates and suppliers are

stored in a specifier database;

- c. using the one of the specifier workstations to create a nested e-palette for a set of goods by selecting from the specifier database (1) a set of one or more of the plurality of specifier substrates for association with the set of goods and (2) a set one or more of the plurality of specifier shades for association with each selected specifier substrate, wherein each selected specifier substrate and each selected specifier shade defines a nesting within the nested e-palette;
- d. using the one of the specifier workstations to select from the specifier database a predetermined set of one or more of the plurality of suppliers for association with one or more of the nestings within the nested e-palette;
- e. uploading the nested e-palette to a server, whereby the server automatically communicates the existence of the uploaded nested e-palette to the predetermined set of suppliers associated with the nestings within the nested e-palette;
- f. restricting access to at least one of: (1) the uploaded nested e-palette and (2) one or more of the nestings within the uploaded nested e-palette, based upon the predetermined sets of suppliers associated with the nestings within the uploaded nested e-palette;
- g. using one of the specifier workstations to remotely access the uploaded nested e-palette;
- h. providing the one of the specifier workstations with submission data for one or more supplier shades associated with one or more supplier substrates, the submission data including sets of actual spectral data from one or more test

samples;

- i. using the one of the specifier workstations to compare the sets of actual spectral data to the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palette; and
- j. uploading the submission data to the server for specifier review.

27.(New) The method according to claim 26 further comprising using the one of the specifier workstations to associate with the nested e-palette or with one of the nestings within the nested e-palette submission parameters including at least one of: (1) one or more supplier submission conditions, (2) one or more supplier response timeframes, and (3) cost data.

28.(New) The method according to claim 27, further comprising automatically validating operation of said color measuring equipment using a profiling system.